

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10



WASHINGTON OPERATIONS OFFICE
c/o WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, PV-11
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98504
January 24, 1990

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site file

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

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OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Chester L. Tate
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road N.E.
MS: E-28
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Mr. Tate:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Preliminary Health Assessment for the Pasco Sanitary Landfill in Pasco, Washington. The following are our comments.

1. The Preliminary Health Assessment (HA) uses existing monitoring data as the basis for the conclusion and findings listed in the document. The HA needs to explain that the monitoring done to data is preliminary in nature and that no comprehensive Remedial Investigation-like study has been performed as yet. The HA appears to treat this preliminary data as a comprehensive study and draws many definite conclusions regarding site impacts and potential impacts on human health from this preliminary data. We feel that many of the conclusions reached by the HA are premature considering the preliminary nature of the existing data. We also feel that many of the conclusions reached by the HA are not supported by the data presented in the HA or by any data that EPA is currently aware of. Examples of these have been noted in the attached copy of the HA.
2. Pages five and six - This section includes some statements regarding the results of sampling done both on and off site. The sampling and subsequent analytical data used in the preparation of the health assessment should be briefly described. For example the HA says that ambient air sampling on-site has revealed no release. This statement means very little without any description of the sampling effort such as what the samples were analyzed for, what were the detection limits, where and how often the samples were taken. Other examples are noted in the attached copy of the HA.

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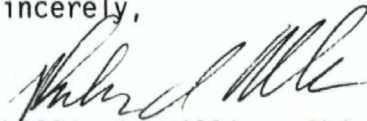


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3. Page one - The summary says that no evidence of contamination appears in any public or private domestic wells in use downgradient of the site. However on page six the HA indicates that a private well in the area has measureable quantities of TCE and 1, 1 dichloroocthane. On page six the HA goes on to say that the concentrations of contaminants detected in these wells is increasing. Is there one contaminated well or multiple contaminated wells?
4. Additional comments are noted in the margin on the attached copy of the HA.
5. Comments from the Washington Department of Ecology are also attached.

If you should have any questions, please call me at (206) 442-1987 or Bob Kievit at (206) 753-9014.

Sincerely,



Phillip G. Milliam, Chief
Superfund Branch

cc: Greg Thomas, ATSDR Region 10
Don Oliver, DOH

Attachments